

CALL NO.  
CA1  
EA  
-84 N57

GOVT

adä

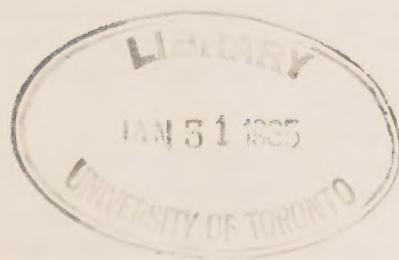
Government  
Publications

Notes for Teachers

5

# Commonwealth Day in schools

March 12, 1984



External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
Canada

Government  
of Alberta

CAI  
EA  
- 84 N57

Government  
Publications

# Canada

Notes for Teachers

(S)

## Commonwealth Day in schools

March 12, 1984



External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
Canada



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2022 with funding from  
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761115524142>

# COMMONWEALTH DAY IN SCHOOLS

## Why learn about the Commonwealth?

Every nation has a responsibility to provide education that will promote international understanding and goodwill. Young people, in particular, should learn how important it is that all people should strive to live together in harmony in an increasingly complex world. Studies related to the Commonwealth can provide an excellent means of getting across to young and impressionable minds the ideas of "independence", "interdependence", "co-operation", "partnership", "pulling together", "unity amidst diversity", "North/South dialogue", which underlie attempts to secure world peace and international understanding and development assistance programs.

## What is the Commonwealth?

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of forty-nine independent countries situated in every region of the world. It brings together a billion people of infinite variety—of faith, of race, of language and of colour—who share certain traditions, techniques and attitudes in government, in the law, in education, and in other fields, and the ability to communicate easily with each other in the English language.

The decision to join the Commonwealth was made by member governments when they became independent. All agree that their interests are well served by continued partnership and co-operation. Through their association with each other, members make a genuine effort to encourage greater human understanding and to work towards a peaceful world by reducing prejudice, ignorance, disease and poverty. These political beliefs are set out in a Declaration of Commonwealth Principles which they regard as valid not merely for themselves, but as a contribution to the collective understanding and goodwill of all mankind.

The Commonwealth also conducts a very diverse range of technical assistance, economic, humanitarian and social programs for its developing country members, financed by all its members according to their means. A few examples are:

- The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, in which a unique and successful principle has been to provide the means of exchanging relevant experience between developing countries (within regions and between regions) so that they can learn from each other.
- Several major studies undertaken on economic and trade relationships between developed and developing countries (the North/South Dialogue).
- The Commonwealth Youth Program with India, Guyana, Zambia and Fiji, providing regional centres for training of youth leaders, and

— As a recent addition, a unit concerned with the means of improving the role and place of Women in economic and social development.

## What is Commonwealth Day?

Commonwealth Day is a special day every year when member countries celebrate their membership in the association. Commonwealth Heads of Government have set aside the second Monday in March for this purpose so as to promote understanding and learning about the Commonwealth. Schools can sponsor activities which will enable them to make imaginative use of Commonwealth Day and the period leading up to it, and involve parents and other resource persons in some of these activities. The following are some of the ideas which teachers may wish to consider.

## Classroom activities in the period leading up to Commonwealth Day

### 1. Arts and crafts

- a) Put up a large map of the world and colour in Commonwealth nations. Different colours could be used for the different regions—Canada/Caribbean; Britain/Mediterranean; Africa; Asia; Pacific.
- b) Make a display of food labels from Commonwealth countries, relating them to the country of origin on the map.
- c) Make and display dolls dressed in traditional costumes.
- d) Collect or draw pictures of people from different Commonwealth countries and display them.

### 2. Readings

Read stories and poems by Commonwealth writers. Encourage children to get pen-friends in other Commonwealth countries.

### 3. Stamp collecting

Display Commonwealth stamps including those collected from pen-friends in Commonwealth nations.

### 4. Commonwealth scrapbook

Collect and display news items and pictures from newspapers and magazines about people and events in Commonwealth countries. Arrange them according to their subject (e.g. sport, agriculture, international meetings, elections, and arts).

### 5. Music

Try to obtain and play recordings of music and folk songs from other Commonwealth countries.

## 6. Cooking

Parents and others may also be able to provide recipes of national dishes and help the children to prepare them.

## 7. Other activities

- Encouraging pupils to participate in Commonwealth-wide essay competitions (e.g. those organized by the Royal Commonwealth Society).
- Discussions and debates on world issues in which the role of the Commonwealth can be explored—for example, relations between rich and poor countries.
- Each student or group of students selects a Commonwealth country for study and presents a short talk to the class.
- Students conduct imaginary dialogue between heads of government of selected Commonwealth countries.

## Commonwealth Day

The following ideas for this Day are suggested:

1. The singing of the National Anthem.
2. A procession of Commonwealth flags with the names of the states pinned on to the students. These flags could be cardboard replicas made in the classroom.
3. Readings emphasizing international understanding and cooperation.
4. A national song or hymn, or a national dance or choral speech.
5. A closing prayer for greater love and understanding and lasting peace.

## THE COMMONWEALTH TODAY

The 49 member countries of the Commonwealth are situated in every part of the world. They vary enormously in size and population.

The peoples of the Commonwealth vary enormously, too, in faith, race, language and colour.

The economies of Commonwealth members also differ. The Commonwealth includes a few of the world's developed industrialized countries but the majority are developing countries, and include many of the world's poorest.

The modern Commonwealth began to take shape in 1947 when India became a member after it became independent.

Its growth began to speed up in 1957 when Ghana gained its independence. Since then, new nations in Africa, Asia, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean have chosen to become Commonwealth members. The newest member is Brunei which joined in 1984.

The Queen is the symbol and Head of the Commonwealth even though many of its members are republics, while others have their own monarchs.

The Commonwealth is served by an international secretariat. It has offices in London. Its staff is made up of people from all over the Commonwealth. The first Secretary-General was a Canadian, Mr. Arnold Smith, and the current one is Mr. Shridath Ramphal from Guyana.

The Secretariat organizes meetings and conferences that bring people from Commonwealth countries together to plan and carry out action programmes. It also carries out the decisions of heads of government meetings in political and economic cooperation activity.

## DECLARATION OF COMMONWEALTH PRINCIPLES

On 22 January 1971, at their meeting in Singapore, Commonwealth Heads of Government unanimously approved the following Declaration of Commonwealth Principles:

THE Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary association of independent sovereign states, each responsible for its own policies, consulting and co-operating in the common interests of their peoples and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace.

MEMBERS of the Commonwealth come from territories in the six continents and five oceans, include peoples of different races, languages and religions, and display every stage of economic development from poor developing nations to wealthy industrialized nations. They encompass a rich variety of cultures, traditions and institutions.

MEMBERSHIP of the Commonwealth is compatible with the freedom of member governments to be non-aligned or to belong to any other grouping, association or alliance. Within this diversity all members of the Commonwealth hold certain principles in common. It is by pursuing these principles that the Commonwealth can continue to influence international society for the benefit of mankind.

WE believe that international peace and order are essential to the security and prosperity of mankind; we therefore support the United Nations and seek to strengthen its influence for peace in the world, and its efforts to remove the causes of tension between nations.

WE believe in the liberty of the individual, in equal rights for all citizens regardless of race, colour, creed or political belief, and in their inalienable right to participate by means of free and democratic political processes in framing the society in which they live. We therefore strive to promote in each of our countries those representative institutions and guarantees for personal freedom under the law that are our common heritage.

WE recognize racial prejudice as a dangerous sickness threatening the healthy development of the human race and racial discrimination as an unmitigated evil of society. Each of us will vigorously combat this evil within our own nation.

NO country will afford to regimes which practise racial discrimination assistance which in its own judgment directly contributes to the pursuit or consolidation of this evil policy. We oppose all forms of colonial domination and racial oppression and are committed to the principles of human dignity and equality.

WE will therefore use all our efforts to foster human equality and dignity everywhere, and to further the principles of self-determination and non-racialism.

WE believe that the wide disparities in wealth now existing between different sections of mankind are too great to be tolerated. They also create world tensions. Our aim is their progressive removal. We therefore seek to use our efforts to overcome poverty, ignorance and disease in raising standards of life and achieving a more equitable international society.

TO this end our aim is to achieve the freest possible flow of international trade on terms fair and equitable to all, taking into account the special requirements of the developing countries, and to encourage the flow of adequate resources, including governmental and private resources, to the developing countries, bearing in mind the importance of doing this in a true spirit of partnership and of establishing for this purpose in

the developing countries conditions which are conducive to sustained investment and growth.

WE believe that international co-operation is essential to remove the causes of war, promote tolerance, combat injustice, and secure development among the peoples of the world. We are convinced that the Commonwealth is one of the most fruitful associations for these purposes.

IN pursuing these principles the members of the Commonwealth believe that they can provide a constructive example of the multi-national approach which is vital to peace and progress in the modern world. The association is based on consultation, discussion and co-operation.

IN rejecting coercion as an instrument of policy they recognize that the security of each member state from external aggression is a matter of concern to all members. It provides many channels for continuing exchanges of knowledge and views on professional, cultural, economic, legal and political issues among member states.

THESE relationships we intend to foster and extend, for we believe that our multi-national association can expand human understanding and understanding among nations, assist in the elimination of discrimination based on differences of race, colour or creed, maintain and strengthen personal liberty, contribute to the enrichment of life for all, and provide a powerful influence for peace among nations.

### COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS

Country	Capital	Population 1984	National Day	Year of Joining
Antigua and Barbuda (M)	St. John's	100,000	November 1	1981
Australia (M)	Canberra	14,900,000	January 26	1931
The Bahamas (R)	Nassau	200,000	July 10	1973
Bangladesh (R)	Dhaka	90,700,000	March 26	1972
Barbados (M)	Bridgetown	300,000	November 30	1966
Belize (M)	Belmopan	100,000	September 21	1981
Botswana (R)	Gaborone	900,000	September 30	1966
Britain (M)	London	56,000,000	June 16	—
Brunei (M)	Bandar Seri Begawan	180,000	February 23	1984
Canada (M)	Ottawa	24,200,000	July 1	1931
Cyprus (R)	Nicosia	600,000	October 1	1961
Dominica (R)	Roseau	100,000	November 3	1978
Fiji (M)	Suva	600,000	October 8	1970
The Gambia (R)	Banjul	600,000	February 18	1965
Ghana (R)	Accra	11,800,000	March 6	1957
Grenada (M)	St. George's	100,000	February 7	1974
Guyana (R)	Georgetown	800,000	February 23	1976
India (R)	New Delhi	690,200,000	January 26	1947
Jamaica (M)	Kingston	2,200,000	August 6	1962
Kenya (R)	Nairobi	17,400,000	December 12	1963
Kiribati (R)	Tarawa	60,000	July 12	1979
Lesotho (M)	Maseru	1,400,000	October 4	1966
Malawi (K)	Lilongwe	6,200,000	July 6	1964
Malaysia (M)	Kuala Lumpur	14,200,000	January 31	1957
Maldives (R)*	Male	200,000	July 9	1982
Malta (R)	Valetta	400,000	December 13	1964
Mauritius (M)	Port Louis	900,000	March 12	1968
Nauru (R)*	Nauru	8,000	January 31	1968
New Zealand (M)	Wellington	3,300,000	February 6	1931
Nigeria (R)	Lagos	87,600,000	October 1	1960
Papua New-Guinea (M)	Port Moresby	3,100,000	September 16	1975
St. Christopher-Nevis (M)	Basseterre	50,000	September 19	1983
St. Lucia (M)	Castries	100,000	February 22	1979
St. Vincent (M)*	Kingstown	100,000	October 27	1979
Seychelles (R)	Victoria	100,000	June 5	1976
Sierra Leone (R)	Freetown	3,600,000	April 19	1961
Singapore (R)	Singapore	2,400,000	August 9	1965
Solomon Islands (M)	Honiara	200,000	July 8	1978
Sri Lanka (R)	Colombo	15,000,000	February 4	1948
Swaziland (M)	Mbabane	600,000	September 6	1968
Tanzania (R)	Dar es Salaam	19,100,000	December 9	1961
Tonga (M)	Nuku'alofa	100,000	June 4	1970
Trinidad and Tobago (R)	Port of Spain	1,200,000	September 24	1962
Tuvalu (M)*	Funafuti	8,000	October 1	1978
Uganda (R)	Kampala	13,000,000	October 9	1962
Vanuatu (R)	Port Vila	100,000	July 30	1980
Western Samoa (R)	Apia	200,000	July 12	1979
Zambia (R)	Lusaka	5,800,000	October 24	1964
Zimbabwe (R)	Harare	7,200,000	April 18	1980

\*Special Member    (M) Monarchy    (R) Republic

MEMBRES DU COMMONWEALTH		Capitale	Population	Fête nationale	Année d'adhésion	Païs
Antigua et Barbuda (M)	St. John's	100,000	1 novembre	1981		
Australie (M)	Canberra	14,900,000	26 janvier	1931		
Bahamas (R)	Nassau	200,000	10 juillet	1973		
Barbade (M)	Dhaka	90,700,000	26 mars	1972		
Belize (M)	Bridgetown	300,000	30 novembre	1966		
Boltonna (R)	Gaborone	900,000	21 septembre	1981		
Brunet (M)	Bridgetown	100,000	30 novembre	1966		
Canada (M)	Ottawa	24,200,000	1 juillet	1931		
Chypre (R)	Nicosie	600,000	1 octobre	1961		
Dominiq (R)	Roseau	600,000	8 octobre	1978		
Fidji (M)	Suva	100,000	3 novembre	1966		
Gambie (R)	Banjul	600,000	18 février	1965		
Ghana (R)	Accra	11,800,000	6 mars	1957		
Grenade (M)	Londres	56,000,000	16 juin	—		
Jamaïque (M)	Kingston	100,000	7 février	1974		
Kenya (R)	Nairobi	200,000	23 février	1976		
Kinshasa (R)	Honiara	690,200,000	8 juillet	1978		
Kinshasa (R)	Nouvelle-Delhi	2,200,000	6 août	1962		
Kinshasa (R)	Tarawa	60,000	12 juillet	1979		
Kinshasa (R)	Maseru	1,400,000	4 octobre	1966		
Kinshasa (R)	Lilongwe	6,200,000	6 juillet	1964		
Kinshasa (R)	Malé	14,200,000	31 janvier	1957		
Kinshasa (R)	Kuala Lumpur	1,200,000	9 juillet	1982		
Kinshasa (R)	La Valette	200,000	13 décembre	1964		
Kinshasa (R)	Port Louis	900,000	12 mars	1968		
Kinshasa (R)	Nauru	8,000	31 janvier	1968		
Kinshasa (R)	Lagos	87,600,000	1 octobre	1960		
Kinshasa (R)	Wellington	3,300,000	6 février	1962		
Kinshasa (R)	Kampala	13,000,000	9 octobre	1962		
Kinshasa (R)	Port Moresby	3,100,000	16 septembre	1975		
Kinshasa (R)	Basseterre	50,000	19 septembre	1983		
Kinshasa (R)	Castries	100,000	22 février	1979		
Kinshasa (R)	Apia	100,000	27 octobre	1979		
Kinshasa (R)	Victoria	200,000	12 juillet	1979		
Kinshasa (R)	Freitown	100,000	5 juin	1976		
Kinshasa (R)	Singapour	3,600,000	19 avril	1961		
Kinshasa (R)	Colombo	15,000,000	4 février	1948		
Kinshasa (R)	Dar-es-Salam	1,100,000	9 décembre	1965		
Kinshasa (R)	Nuku'alofa	100,000	4 juin	1970		
Kinshasa (R)	Port-Vila	100,000	30 juillet	1980		
Kinshasa (R)	Port-Vila	8,000	1 octobre	1978		
Kinshasa (R)	Funafuti	1,200,000	24 septembre	1962		
Kinshasa (R)	Port of Spain	100,000	4 juillet	1970		
Kinshasa (R)	Lusaka	5,800,000	24 octobre	1964		
Kinshasa (R)	Harare	7,200,000	18 avril	1980		
Malte (R)*	Zimbabwe (R)					
Malte (R)*	Namibie (R)					
Malte (R)*	Tonga (M)					
Malte (R)*	Tanzanie (R)					
Malte (R)*	Sri Lanka (R)					
Malte (R)*	Singapour (R)					
Malte (R)*	Sierra Leone (R)					
Malte (R)*	Seychelles (R)					
Malte (R)*	Saint-Vincent (M)*					
Malte (R)*	Sainte-Lucie (M)					
Malte (R)*	Saint-Martin (M)					
Malte (R)*	Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée					
Malte (R)*	Nouvelle-Zélande (M)					
Malte (R)*	Ouganda (R)					
Malte (R)*	Nigéria (R)					
Malte (R)*	Malawi (K)					
Malte (R)*	Lesotho (M)					
Malte (R)*	Kenya (R)					
Malte (R)*	Jamaïque (M)					
Malte (R)*	Inde (R)					
Malte (R)*	Îles Salomon (M)					
Malte (R)*	Guyane (R)					
Malte (R)*	Grenade (M)					
Malte (R)*	Grenade-Bretagne (M)					
Malte (R)*	Gambie (R)					
Malte (R)*	Ghana (R)					
Malte (R)*	Dominiq (R)					
Malte (R)*	Chypre (R)					
Malte (R)*	Canada (M)					
Malte (R)*	Brunet (M)					
Malte (R)*	Boltonna (R)					
Malte (R)*	Belize (M)					
Malte (R)*	Barbade (M)					
Malte (R)*	Antigua et Barbuda (M)					

Païs

\*Membre spécial

(M) Monarchie

(R) République

Nous croyons que la coopération internationale est essentielle pour faire disparaître les causes des guerres, pour promouvoir la paix entre les nations. Nous devons faire de l'effort pour vaincre la tolérance, combattre l'injustice et assurer le développement de tous les peuples du monde. Nous sommes persuadés que le Commonwealth est l'une des associations les plus apte à réaliser ces objectifs.

Le Commonwealth est l'appellation que les peuples du monde donnent à l'ensemble des organisations qui ont pour but de maintenir l'ordre et la paix dans un monde modeste. L'association repose sur la consultation, la discussion et la coopération.

En effet, les États membres du Commonwealth estiment que la protection de chaque membre contre une agression venant de l'extérieur intéressé tous les membres de l'association. L'association fournit aux États membres de l'association moyens d'échanger sur une base permanente des connaissances et des points de vue sur des questions politiques, économiques, juridiques et culturelles, qui contribuent à enrichir la vie de tous et exercer une influence pour promouvoir la paix entre les nations.

Nous avons l'intention d'encourager et d'entretenir les relations, car nous croyons que notre association multinationale peut favoriser la compréhension entre les hommes et entre les nations, aider à éliminer la discrimination fondée sur les différences de race, de couleur ou de croissance, garantir les libertés individuelles, contribuer à enrichir la vie de tous et exercer une influence pour promouvoir la paix entre les nations.

À cette fin, nous cherchons à libéraliser le plus possible les échanges internationaux à des conditions justes et équitables pour tous, en tenant compte des exigences particulières des pays en voie de développement, et à encourager le transfert vers ces pays de ressources adéquates, tant publiques que privées, conscients de l'importance d'agir dans un véritable esprit de collaboration et de créer dans les pays en développement un climat qui favorise la croissance et l'investissement de l'agro-industrie.

Nous considérons les préjugés raciaux comme un mal dangereux qui menace le sein épauillissement du genre humain, et la discrimination raciale comme une véritable plaie sociale. Chaque nation littéra avive vigueur contre ce fléau. Aucun pays n'accordera à des régimes qui pratiquent la discrimination raciale une aide qu'il a son avis, contribuerait directement à encourager ou à soutenir cette politique odieuse. Nous nous opposons à toutes les formes de domination coloniale et d'oppression raciale et nous avons pour principes la dignité humaine et l'égalité des personnes.

En conséquence, nous militons partout en faveur de la répartition des richesses entre les différentes parties de l'humanité. Nous estimons que les grandes inégalités actuelles dans la répartition des richesses entre les différentes parties de l'humanité sont trop marquées pour être tolérées. Elles créent aussi des tensions dans le monde. Nous nous fixons donc comme objectif leur disparition progressive, et nous nous efforçons de vaincre la pauvreté. L'ignorance, et la maladie en élevant les niveaux de vie, et en édifiant une communauté internationale plus équitable.

Unies et nous cherchons à renforcer son influence stabilisatrice dans le monde et à soutenir ses efforts en vue de faire disparaître les causes de tensions entre les nations.

Nous croyons à la liberté individuelle, à l'égalité des droits entre tous les citoyens, indépendamment de leur race, de leur couleur, de leurs croyances religieuses ou de leurs opinions politiques, et au droit inaliénable de chacun de prendre part aux affaires politiques de son pays respectueusement. Par des moyens pacifiques et démocratiques à l'élaboration de la société dans laquelle il vit. Par conséquent, nous nous efforçons de promouvoir dans nos pays respectifs les institutions représentatives et les garanties des libertés individuelles, en vertu du droit qui constitue notre patrimoine commun.

La appartenance au Commonwealth n'empêche pas les gouvernements des Etats membres d'être non alignés ou d'adhérer à tout autre groupe, association ou alliance. Malgré cette diversité, tous les Etats membres du Commonwealth partagent certains principes, et c'est en soutenant ces principes que le Commonwealth peut continuer à évoluer dans l'intérêt de l'humanité au sein de la communauté internationale.

Le Commonwealth des Nations est une association d'Etats indépendants et souverains, maitres de leur politique, qui ont choisi de se consulter et de collaborer pour le bien de leurs populations et pour la concorde internationale et la paix dans le monde.

## DECLARATION DU COMMONWEALTH

Le secrétariat organise des réunions et des conférences au cours desquelles des représentants du Commonwealth élaborent et concrétisent des programmes d'action. Il est également chargé de donner suite aux décisions prises au cours des réunions des chefs de gouvernement dans le domaine de la coopération politique et économique.

Le Commonwealth est desservi par un secrétariat situé à Londres. Son personnel est composé de personnes recrutees parmi tous les pays du Commonwealth. Le premier secrétariat général fut un Canadien, M. Arnold Smith. C'est actuellement M. Shridath Ramphal, de La Guinée, qui dirige le secrétariat.

La République est le symbole et Chef du Commonwealth et, bien que de nombreux pays soient des républiques ou soient gouvernées par leur propre monarchie.

Sur un développement assez accéléré en 1957 lorsqu'e le Ghana a acquis son indépendance. Depuis lors, de nouveaux pays d'Afrique, d'Asie, de la Méditerranée, des Antilles, de l'Océan Indien et de l'Océan Pacifique ont choisi de devenir membres du Commonwealth. Brunei y est adhére tout récemment, en 1984.

Le Commonwealth modifie a commencer a se former en 1947 lorsque l'Inde y a adhre<sup>e</sup> apres son accession a l'Inde pen- dante.

Les économies différenciées égalent. Le Commonwealth comprend quelques-uns des principaux pays industriels mais la majorité de ses membres sont des pays en développement, dont un grand nombre sont parmi les plus pauvres du monde.

Les personnes qui communiquent différemment aussi beaucoup sur le plan des croyances, de la race, de la langue et de la cou-  
leur.

Des 70 pays membres de l'Organisation des Nations unies ont toutes les régions du monde. Leur taille et le nombre de leurs habitants varient énormément.

## LE COMMONWEALTH AUJOURD'HUI

5. Une prière de clôture pour qu'il y ait plus d'amour et de compréhension et une paix durable.

3 : Lecture de textes soulignant la compréhension et la collaboration entre les couples.

4 : Un chant ou un hymne national ou une danse nationale.

2- Deuxes des draperys de Cominhacuinh ou les participants portent chacun le nom d'un Etat. Les drapexy peuvent être faits en carton, en classe.

## 1. Chant de l'hymne national.

Nous vous proposons les idées suivantes pour cette journée.

Jour du Commonwealth

- Faire choisir à chaque élève ou groupe d'élèves un pays du Commonwealth qu'il étudie et présente ensuite à la classe à l'occasion d'un bref exposé.
- Demander aux étudiants d'imaginer des entretiens entre dirigeants de Commonwealth de pays du Commonwealth.

6. Cuisine

- Des parents ou d'autres personnes pourraient donner des connaissances culturelles
- Essayer d'obtenir et de faire entendre des enregistrements de musique et de chansons populaires d'autres pays du monde

activités artistiques.

Colléctionner et exposer des photos et articles de journaux  
et de revues sur les habitants des pays du Commonwealth  
sur ce qu'il s'y passe. Les classes par sujets, par exemple.







Canada

Affaires étrangères

External Affairs

le 12 mars 1984

# A l'occasion du Jour du Commonwealth dans les écoles

À l'intention  
des enseignants

Canada







3 1761 11552414 2

